

February 5, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Proceeding 03-16**

Dear Ms. Dortch & The Commission:

Please know that I strongly support SBC's application to compete for long distance customers in Michigan. Increasing competition will bring greater value to consumers and give them the same choices that residents in more than a dozen states already are enjoying. As a lifelong resident of Michigan and a State Representative, I am well aware of the need for fair and full telecommunications competition.

I have taken a particular interest in consumer protection issues. Protecting consumer's interest means giving them the power to choose, the power to save money and the freedom to secure the best deals for their lifestyles. Granting SBC's long distance application will do exactly that.

I commend the Michigan Public Service Commission for ensuring Michigan's local telephone market is open to competition. It is my hope I can commend the FCC in the same way. In the past two years we've seen local competition grow to twenty percent in Michigan. In addition, it's my understanding that SBC received good grades on the company's systems that support local phone competition.

As the State Representative for the 20th House District, representing Southeast Michigan, I do hope the next step in this process is the FCC's approval of SBC's application, granting final approval. I wish you the best of luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,

John C. Stewart  
State Representative  
Plymouth, Northville, Wayne & Canton (part)